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## MSA AND COE FORM PARTNERSHIP

A new partnership between two education agencies now allows Job Corps centers to get two accreditations for the “price” of one.

The Commission on Secondary Schools (CSS), Middle States Association (MSA) and the Council on Occupational Education (COE) have partnered to allow institutions to use one improvement protocol for both certifications.

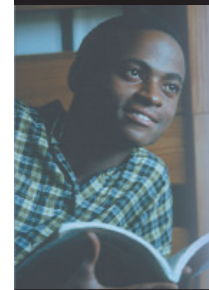
This avoids redundancy and ineffective use of resources that might occur if institutions were required to participate in two separate self-study and improvement processes.



Institutions eligible for this accreditation service include those seeking accreditation with both organizations for the first time or those that are already accredited members in good standing with one or both of the agencies.

The accreditation affirms that schools have met prescribed qualitative standards determined by these organizations. It also provides schools with a process to help them better evaluate the educational needs of their students.

To learn more about this accreditation opportunity, please fax your contact information to Dr. Susan Nicklas, Executive Director of MSA, (215) 662-0957; or Dr. Harry Bowman, President of COE, (770) 396-3790.



Region II

# HSD/GED News



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## Blue Ridge Job Corps Center's High School Diploma Programs **G R O W**

As Blue Ridge Job Corps students and staff enjoy the initial success of the center's high school diploma programs, administrators are working to meet the growing needs of students interested in earning a diploma.

Students now have two options to work toward a high school diploma. The first is a result of a partnership between the Job Corps center and the local public school system, which was launched in August 2001. Later that year, the center began to offer Internet-based curriculum in addition to the traditional classes. Students can enroll in Internet classes in English, math, social studies, art, science and health.

Since the demand to earn a high school diploma is so strong, the Blue Ridge staff has created a waiting list for students who wish to enroll in the diploma programs.

From September 2001 through June 2002, 87 Blue Ridge Job Corps students earned their high school diplomas through the partnership with the local school system. In April 2002, the first group of students earned their high school diplomas through the online program.

“The online program continues to grow, with more than 50 students earning their high school diplomas in seven months,” said Susan Widener, supervisor of training programs.

Students' interest in the online diploma program has increased, and the educators have adjusted their resources to meet the students' demands by extending the hours of the center's Learning Resource Center. The added hours allow students additional time to work through the program.

“Offering choices in earning a diploma allows the student to study and learn at his or her own level,” Widener said. “The Internet-based learning curriculum was tailored by educators to meet the various needs of all students, regardless of their academic abilities.”

Blue Ridge Job Corps students who have earned their high school diplomas continue to set and achieve academic and career goals such as enrolling in college and joining the military, she said.

For more information on the high school diploma programs offered by Blue Ridge Job Corps Center, call Susan Widener at (276) 783-7221, Ext. 260.



*Congratulations  
Class of 2003*



# Muhlenberg Career Development Center Celebrates Success of Muhlenberg County Career High School



## WRITING SKILLS: How do you teach a student to write?

Philadelphia Job Corps Center is tapping into students' competitive spirit to improve their writing skills.

At the Center, students search in newspapers, magazines, Web sites, and other sources to learn about writing contests. Currently students are participating in a 100-words-or-less essay contest to win a Mercury Mountaineer. The rules of the contest are to write an amusing family car story.

"Contests really excite students, and they tend to learn better when they enjoy their writing assignments," said Mae Stevens, academic supervisor at Philadelphia Job Corps Center. "Encouraging students to write each day will help tone their writing skills and give them practice writing about different subjects."

How does your center help students improve their writing skills? The Regional Office wants to know your best practices. If you would like to share a best practice, call Shareefah Reese in the Regional Office, (215) 861-5525.

Nearly a year after partnering to create the Muhlenberg County Career High School, both the local Job Corps center and board of education are building on the program's success, and developing new opportunities for students to excel.

"We thought going in that this would be a win-win situation both for the school system and for the Job Corps center," said Jim Price, Muhlenberg County Career High School principal and coordinator.

The school opened in August 2002, and in the school's first nine months, more than 35 students graduated and earned their high school diplomas. These students went on to career training, college or entered the workforce.

The Career High School has one full-time teacher and one part-time teacher, but the growth of the program is requiring the addition of another full-time position in the coming year.

Muhlenberg Career Development Center



The partnership will gain more momentum this summer due to the creation of work-based learning opportunities offered by the school system, Price said. Under this program, students will provide upkeep and maintenance for the school system's buildings.

The high school was created for students who need six or fewer credits to graduate and provides students with a program of studies that allows them to finish the requirements needed to earn their diplomas.

Students earn a standard diploma from the Muhlenberg County Board of Education and the state of Kentucky. The board provides textbooks and informational support, while the center provides classroom space, materials, access to student records and staff support.

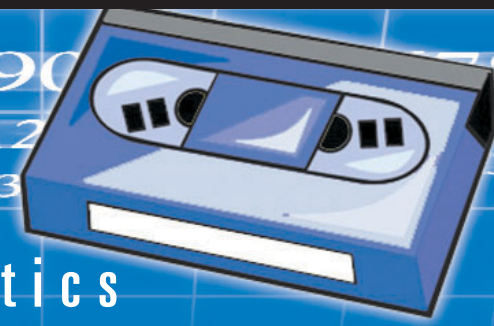
Since the number of high school teachers available for the program is limited, only 26 students can be enrolled in the school.

The partnership also allows area high school students who are at least 16 years old to enroll in Job Corps to receive vocational training in 10 career areas that the county's technical school does not offer.

"I'm really pleased about the fact that students who didn't think they could get their high school diplomas now have an avenue where they can succeed," Price said. "The looks on their faces when they receive their diplomas is really gratifying."

If you have questions about this partnership, please call Jim Price at (270) 338-5460, Ext. 421.

## GED Mathematics Test Video Available



GED administrators are encouraging the use of a mathematics video that helps students prepare for the math section of the GED.

"It is useful for any math class," said Carmen Feola, GED Specialist at Keystone Job Corps Center. "All math classes can use the video in connection with the Steck-Vaughn Mathematics Calculator GED Skill Book, which helps students become more proficient in calculator use and the standard grid."

GED Testing Centers created the video to help students prepare for the math section of the GED. The video includes information in these areas: use of the calculator, alternate format, and the coordinate grid.

"The best way to show the video to students is one section at a time," Feola said. "This will give students time to ask questions and practice the techniques taught in the video."

Students should view the video during the pre-registration process prior to the testing date.

According to Feola, showing the video the same day of the GED test is not the best time. "Students are eager to start the test and will not pay attention to the video," Feola said. "In addition, they will miss information that might have helped them pass the math section."

The video is available to all Job Corps centers in Region II.

"All of the sections of the video are great, but teachers need to remember to emphasize to students that the answer to any question with a coordinate grid is only one point," Feola said. "Many students are likely to mark the other points from the question."

To get a copy of the video, contact your GED Testing Center. If you have any questions about how to use the video with your GED math classes, please call Carmen Feola at (570) 788-0244.

## Taskforce Recommended Web sites



### Eastern LINC's

[www.easternlincs.org](http://www.easternlincs.org)

This is one of five regional sites that make up the National Institute for Literacy's (NIFL) comprehensive electronic communication and information system. This system provides a link to both national and regional resource material for adult literacy practitioners and students. In addition, it links to state adult education agencies and their representative agencies.

### Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE)

[www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE)

The OVAE Web site has information, research and resources to help prepare young people and adults for postsecondary education, successful careers, and productive lives. OVAE's activities fall into four areas: High Schools, Career and Technical Education, Community Colleges, and Adult Education and Literacy. Find information on these topics, plus related legislation, grants and other resources.

### Outreach and Technical Assistance Network (OTAN)

[www.otan.dni.us](http://www.otan.dni.us)

This site offers access to educational materials, ideas on how to incorporate the Internet into the classroom, and the opportunity to collaborate with other educators.